**Phonics**

We will use the programme **Letters and Sounds** in the Foundation Stage and pupils will continue in this programme until they achieve competency in Phase six of the six phases outlined in Letters and Sounds, regardless of age or year group. This is designated to be by the end of year two.

Pupils will be continually assessed during the Foundation Stage and screened at the end of Year 1, to check skills in encoding and decoding; these are interdependent and address reading and writing. This will enable teachers to provide accurate targeted support for all pupils in reading and writing.

Teachers will also utilise continuous tracking of pupil’s progress in order to plan effective daily teaching sessions, using materials designed to assess the phase of development achieved within the Letters and Sounds framework.

Our school will promote high quality, reading, writing and speaking English and all pupils throughout Chichester Free School will leave our school with skills in these three areas, at a very high level.

Each day our pupils will have the chance to read and to hear great stories. Listening skills will be taught, understood by all staff and promoted throughout our school.

Handwriting will be taught from Reception and all pupils will develop a clear and consistent legible style. Our pupils will see writing and spelling skills not only as fun, but as something important and to be proud of. Pupils who are on the special needs register and pupils who are identified as gifted and talented and EAL or have a disability, which prevents them accessing the curriculum will receive targeted input and staff will know these pupils, understand their needs and plan effectively and sensitively for when they are teaching them and assessing their spoken and written work.

Mnemonic systems will be used to make memorisation easier and we incorporate the teachings of Pie Corbett into our literacy lessons. This helps to increase the efficiency of the process of consolidation and involves the conversion of short term memory to long term memory, through repetition and fun lessons. This an important tool to aid the success of teaching and learning and this begins in the Foundation Stage during daily phonics lessons.